CHINA WEEKLY
# REVIEW
密勒氏評論報
A Weekly Newspaper Established In 1917

*Under Syngman Rhee*

## TERROR IN KOREA

## NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY

YU WAH

## OPPOSING LOCAL DESPOTS

H. C. HUANG

*EDITORIALS:*

*H. H. KUNG'S PROPERTY*

*PEACEFUL COMPETITION*

MARCH 18, 1950 JMP 5,000

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# LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of The China Weekly Review.

## CHENGTU READER

To The Editor:

As one of your readers before the civil war cut us off from each other, I hope your paper is continuing. In Chengtu our college is continuing.

At the present time, although China has been unified, there are still people (both Chinese and foreign) who think that a third world war will develop before too long. These people believe that World War III is inevitable for capitalists and communists cannot live together. But the people here in our college do not believe this. These people believe that those who love power and money are wicked and that those who love morality and wisdom are good. Many of our ancient philosophers pointed out that wisdom and morality are the only way. What would they have thought of using such items of destruction as atomic bombs in order to rule the whole world? People who want to rule the world with these means are really ignorant. Those who wish to rule the world in this way want to destroy their brethren.

There are only two kinds of men who are leaders: the political administrators and the greatest scholars. As our classics teach us: "He who exercises government by means of his virtue may be compared to the north polar star which keeps its place and all the stars turn toward it. The grass must bend, when the wind blows across it." The technique of killing through atomic bombs must not be used. We must save the world. We must pound to pieces the hallucinations of those striving to stimulate a World War III.

PROF. G. B. SHIE

The Eastern Civilization College
Chengtu
February 6, 1950

## METHODIST PROTEST

To the Editor:

In a recent issue there was printed a letter from a group of people who desire aid for the Formosa government and who desire non-recognition of the new regime in China. Among the signers of the document was listed Bishop Herbert Welch, and your article stated "As quoted from the New York Herald Tribune" that he was a China Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church.

This title was decidedly in error. Bishop Welch, for whom I have a very high regard even though our opinions in this regard are diametrically opposed, is a retired Bishop of our Church but he is not and he never has been a Secretary of the Board of Missions. During most of his life he lived in the United States and administered the work of the Church here. For a time he visited China and administered some of the sessions of annual conferences of Methodism during his stay in the Far East.

This information is sent to you, not that it needs to be printed but for the record so that if further reference is made to Bishop Welch it will be in the proper category, the very honored category, that of a retired bishop of our Church.

FRANK T. CARTWRIGHT
Associate Secretary,
Board of Missions and Church
Extension of the Methodist Church

New York
February 28, 1950

*(The foregoing letter refers to the membership of the "Anti-Communist China Committee" listed on page 49 of the Review of December 17, 1949. It should be noted that the source of information was not the New York Herald Tribune as stated in Mr. Cartwright's letter, but the New York World-Telegram. Other correspondence about the membership of this same committee appeared in "Letters from the People" columns in the Review of January 14, 1950.—Editor.)*

## SHANGHAI TODAY

To The Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment Shanghai's administration on the calm and efficient manner with which it has tackled the difficulties resulting from KMT bombings of Shanghai. In spite of the severity of the damage, trams were running, though not the usual number, the very morning after the bombing of the power company. Since that time, we have all been drastically curtailing our use of power for we have the confidence that what power there is will be channeled fairly into the most productive sources. There is no panic in Shanghai today, in spite of unemployment resulting from the closing down of factories as a result of the KMT bombings; there is only determination to overcome these difficulties, a strong and common hope that Taiwan will be liberated quickly, and a deep-rooted desire to get on with the job of reconstruction.

People also are beginning to understand the advantages of collective action. Wells, first-aid equipment and sandbags are being set up in various localities as suggested by the local authorities after meetings between residents living in the same community. It is interesting, too, to note that less advanced sections of the population are beginning to understand the connection between a successful bond drive and an early end of the war.

T. S. H.

Shanghai
March 1, 1950

## NEW ART EDUCATION

To the Editor:

Twenty years ago, when I was still a little boy, my father asked me one morning, "Ah Li, what do you want to be when you grow up?" I answered without consideration, "I want to be a painter in the future." My father frowned and said, "No, I can never let you study art, because it is very hard for a painter to find a job in China. Besides, what use is a painter? These long-haired fellows know nothing except how to paint willows, peach blossoms, and female nudes!"

Twenty years later my father still jokingly calls me a "prodigal son," because I have studied art against his will. But he calls me a "prodigal son" with a smile. Like the majority, he has changed his ideas about art. Like the majority he also understands that our government encourages young men to study art, because these "long-haired fellows" are no

*(Continued on Page 50)*

**THE CHINA WEEKLY REVIEW**

J. B. Powell
(Editor & Publisher, 1918-1947)

John W. Powell, *Editor & Publisher*

**Editors**

Mary Barrett
Rose Yardumian
Alun Falconer
Margaret Turner

**Contributing Editors**

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|---|---|
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Vol. 117 Shanghai, Saturday, March 18, 1950 No. 3

# PEACEFUL COMPETITION

*We, the people of the United Nations,*
*Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold suffering to mankind . . . have resolved . . . (from the United Nations Charter).*

AT the time of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations there seemed every prospect that the unity achieved between the great powers during the second world war could be preserved, that lasting peace could be achieved, that the idea of "one world" could become a reality. In those days, men who declared themselves in favor of lasting peace were honored; neither charged with insincerity, nor subject to exclusion from any country.

But now there is a peculiar madness abroad. War has become an open subject for discussion. In certain quarters it is even dressed up in a coy, "preventative" disguise and displayed as desirable.

We need not delude ourselves that the nations of the world are any more united today than when the United Nations Organization was formed in 1945. The road that must be traveled to "one world" has proved to be a long and arduous one, one that takes unpredictable turns, one that is most difficult to negotiate. And, at present, the travelers on the road have seriously fallen out among themselves. Valuable time and energy is being taken up in a quarrel over the right to lead the way. In fact, some are in danger of losing sight entirely of the goal to which humanity must strive. And there are even those who wish to turn us back, to make of their madness a new law and of their dollars a new destiny.

There are destructive forces and influences at work. However, we insist that none can yet match the will towards peace that is shared by the common people of the world. For this will, which was expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, the leaders of the nations today must find a way of realization.

* * *

THE one seemingly profound obstacle is that the world is split in two, divided by the two systems of capitalism and socialism. On one side are the capitalist nations led by the United States; on the other, the socialist and new democratic countries led by the Soviet Union.

But is this any reason at all why the peoples of the socialist and new democratic countries and the peoples of the West should quarrel? Socialism is not a "Russian" or a "Chinese" phenomenon. And capitalism was not the precious creation of the Pilgrim Fathers. Karl Marx made a living by writing for the New York *Tribune*. The private ownership of machines and land was first established in the eastern Mediterranean. The parallel existence of capitalism and socialism now does not indicate the slightest inherent difference between Russians and Americans, between Chinese and Englishmen.

The people of every tongue and land and color have in time contributed to the general progress of humanity. Without doubt all will share in the fruits of civilization and progress. The legend of a chosen people belongs properly to the barbarians.

We could point out here many more serious deviations from the spirit of internationalism, but, to present one example, we will quote the *Chan Wan (Outlook)* magazine of Shanghai. In an article printed in its March 4, 1950, issue, it said: "We cannot help thinking of the fact that though the waters of the Thames still pour into the sea, the past glory of the Anglo-Saxons has departed with the period of the prosperity of capitalism."

With this point of view, which confuses people with social systems, we strictly disagree, affirming that the future belongs to the people of all lands.

* * *

WHAT then is to be done about the present division of the world into two social systems?

It is clear that, in the foreseeable future, the Soviet Union will remain socialist, and that the new democracies of China and Europe will lean towards socialism. Similarly, the United States and Britain, at least, will remain capitalist.

Further, it is inconceivable that the United States could overthrow socialism in Russia; or that the Soviet Union could turn America into a socialist nation.

War cannot now alter the course of history in any way that would be acceptable to the peoples of the world. War and the preparations for war are to be abhorred, exposed and condemned.

What alternative may is then open? What is to be done about the two systems?

It seems that the one acceptable answer is to be summed up in the principle of "peaceful competition." That a Russian, or to be more exact, a Georgian, first brought forward this principle should not prejudice the people of the world in any way. The test is the logic of the idea. Does it suit the circumstances?

We cannot think of one objection. It would seem logical for the nations to agree to differ, and for the two systems to compete and allow

history to decide which is the more productive and sensible.

If the American nation and the British nation will accept this principle of "peaceful competition," it would seem that there is no present conflict that cannot be solved.

* * *

IF this principle is accepted, then the first and foremost conflict now endangering world peace can be solved immediately. The Chinese people can once more be given their rightful voice in the councils of the United Nations. The futile provocations of Chiang Kai-shek can be swept aside as a menace to peace, a useless attempt to turn back the clock of history by war.

Given its full rights, the new China will unquestionably support the principle of "peaceful competition" and join its voice with all those who oppose war.

If war is banned and "peaceful competition" willingly accepted by all, then the United Nations will be greatly strengthened. The nations will be able to proceed again, without fear, on the road to "one world."

---

## H. H. KUNG'S PROPERTY

FOR many years it has been "common knowledge" that the so-called Big Four families of China, the Chiang's, the Kung's, the Soong's and the Chen's, were among the nation's wealthiest families. Likewise, it has been "generally known" that much of their wealth was not acquired through ordinary business activities, but was secured through extra-legal means.

As officials of the first rank for the past quarter of a century, representatives of these four families have come to symbolize the term "bureaucratic capitalist." A bureaucratic capitalist is distinguished from an ordinary merchant, banker or industrialist in that he is both an official and a businessman who uses his power of office to gain an unfair and illegal advantage in his private commercial undertakings.

H. H. Kung, who was China's finance minister for more than a decade, perhaps more than any of the other top ranking bureaucratic capitalists has in the eyes of the public come to symbolize official greed and corruption. His term of office, which coincided roughly with the Sino-Japanese War, was characterized by inflation, inefficiency and general malfeasance in office. In fact, it was during his tenure as minister of finance that the whole system of bureaucratic capitalism was nurtured and developed. For a decade currency scandals, food scandals, commodity scandals, tax scandals followed one another with appalling regularity.

Members of Kung's immediate family, his trusted henchmen and various and sundry hangers-on rose from rags to riches. During the war years in Chungking the "smart" speculators bent their energies toward "watching" Kung's agents and relatives to see what they bought or what they sold so as to quickly follow suit, because they knew from experience that the latter only entered the markets when they had advance information of impending government policies.

For years, whenever anyone would ask who owned this or that big company, or this or that big building, the standard reply would be to the effect that so and so was supposed to be the owner, but that it was rumored that he had been "squeezed" by Kung and that the latter was now the real owner. Sometimes, the name supplied would be that of another of the Big Four, but as often as not, it was Kung. While the operations of these leading bureaucratic capitalists were so extensive that they could not be kept secret, there were so many rumors of their activities that it was often difficult to determine just how much was true. Now, however, the facts are being unearthed as the people's authorities continue their search for the hidden property of the major war criminals. The revelations of Kung's secret holdings have been the most startling so far.

It has now been revealed that he owned property way in excess of what even the wildest rumors had claimed. He was interested in virtually all types of business. Practically nothing escaped his attention. In addition to several hundreds of residential houses scattered about the choicer districts of Shanghai (in some cases he owned entire blocks), he was a heavy investor in downtown office property, owning some of the city's larger skyscrapers. He also owned import-export firms, sales agencies, warehouses, and factories. What's more, investigators digging through his various properties have found that he was extensively engaged in speculative buying and selling of commodities as well as in long-range hoarding. Tons of hoarded goods turned up ranged all the way from items basic to the economy such as sugar and cloth to essential imported medicines and foreign automobiles.

A great deal of Kung's property was located following discovery of the fact that two brothers, Koo Hsin-yih and Koo Chen-tsai, long thought to be among the city's most successful entrepreneurs, were in fact nothing but front men for Kung. With this revelation, a whole new list of Kung property has been found. The Koo brothers were recently tried and convicted under the law providing for punishment of people attempting to conceal the property of war criminals. Following their conviction a number of local firms, who had the names of the Koo brothers on their books as shareholders, have reported this fact to the local courts. Thus, the list of H. H. Kung's known property grows with almost each passing week.

To mention but a few outstanding examples, here are some representative listings of Kung's property which have recently been discovered: The Teng Yu Native Bank at 210 Kiukiang Road; the Liza (Chase Bank) Building at 346 Szechuen Road, one of the larger office buildings in Shanghai; 9,800,000 shares of the ABC Underwear Company, the best known underwear manufacturing firm in the country with head-

quarters in Shanghai and branches in other cities; the Auto Palace Company, Ltd. at 100 Mowming Road, one of the city's largest garages and agents for foreign automobiles; the Yangtze Development Corporation, with head offices in the Hongkong-Shanghai Bank building, a major import-export firm; 33,500,000 shares of the Golden Coin Thermos Bottle Company; 3,120,000 shares of the Yi Foong Enamelware Factory; 50,000 shares of the Tien Yih Paint Factory; and an as yet unannounced number of shares held through the Koo brothers, in the Chung Hsin Cotton Cloth Company, the China Cement Company, the Yung Yi Dyeing and Weaving Works and the China State Bank.

When one surveys the record, it is easy to see the influence which such an important bureaucratic capitalist as Kung wielded. Many of his holdings, such as schools and newspapers, were undoubtedly financial liabilities, but nevertheless had functions as part of his "empire." His newspapers, which frequently operated at a deficit, had their purpose in providing "good" publicity and in giving him a potent weapon with which he could attack his political and business enemies.

Considering that he began life as the son of a small provincial banker—he himself says that he started his career as a poor educational worker—and that virtually his entire adult life has been spent as a government official at a nominal salary, Kung managed to get his hands upon a sizable share of the nation's wealth. The process by which this was accomplished, however, appears rather less mysterious when one looks over his official and personal connections. A brother-in-law of Chiang Kai-shek, Kung held a number of official appointments in the old Kuomintang government, among the most important of which were vice-president of the Executive Yuan, minister of finance, governor of the Central Bank, minister of industry, member of the Central Executive Committee and Central Political Council of the KMT. Generally, he held several posts concurrently.

However, it is all over now. Wanted as a war criminal, he is currently "refugeeing" in America where, rumor has it, he has been transferring funds for the past several years just in case of such an emergency. While it is difficult to say now whether the people of China will ever be able to get back either Kung or the loot he managed to smuggle out of the country, they have been able to expose publicly this former "pillar of society" and wipe out his influence in the nation.

While it is obviously just that his concealed property should be confiscated and returned to the state, since in point of fact virtually all of it represents sums filched from the public till in one manner or another, the really important thing is that Kung—as a leading symbol of bureaucratic capitalism and the Kuomintang's ruling clique—should be revealed in his true stature before the public, both of China and abroad.

## 25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

### The Death of Sun Yat-sen

March 14, 1925

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the "Father of the Chinese Republic," is dead. He passed away at Peking on Thursday morning March 12 after a long illness.

Born in 1866, the son of a Kwangtung farmer, Dr. Sun played a greater part in the modern history of China than any other one man. In his younger days he was attracted by revolutionary doctrines and founded the Young China Party at Canton. An early conspiracy failed and Dr. Sun had to flee from Canton and went to England. It was at that time that he was kidnapped by the Chinese Legation in London but was released after British official representations. He has acquired a worldwide reputation which accompanied him through his entire life.

He toured Europe and America on an errand of revolutionary propaganda but returned to China after the Revolution had made headway in the country. He was elected the Provisional President of the Chinese Republic by the Nanking Council in 1911, but subsequent political developments saw him and his party, the Kuomintang, drift away from the north until he organized his own government at Canton and was elected "President" in 1921. In recent years Dr. Sun's attitude underwent a vast change, slowly orientating to Soviet Russia and a campaign for immediate abrogation of foreign treaties and abolition of extra-territorial privileges in China.

### Accountancy in China

In the development of Chinese business during the last few years there has been nothing more remarkable than the rapid rise and expansion of accounting. Seven years ago there was no public accountant among the Chinese in China. All firms, foreign and Chinese as well, had their accounts audited by the foreign public accountants. The most illogical thing is that the foreign accountant who did not read or write any of the Chinese language audited accounts that were all in Chinese and in the Chinese accounting system, a system that had no standard form. Each province had its own way of keeping accounts, each firm had its own peculiar method, and each person was at liberty to use any invented accounting term. Such was the condition of accountancy in China seven years ago.

From: "Development of Accountancy in China" by Lizen Scheng

## 10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

### Yen Hsi-Shan's Activities

March 16, 1940

A general offensive against Communist forces in Shansi province starting on March 15 was ordered by Gen. Yen Hsi-shan, commander of the Shansi Army, according to a Domei report from Tatung on March 8. The first step in the offensive, it was stated, would be the ousting of the Communist government at Hohsien on the Tungpu Railway line, south of Taiyuan.

The plans were reported to call for more than 7,000 troops, including three cavalry regiments, three infantry regiments and four mobile units, under Gen. Pai Ju-ching, commander of the Cavalry First Army, to advance towards Kolan, Paoteh and Hochu in northwest Shansi from stations east of Chungyanghsien. . . .

"Dare-to-Die" corps were expected to be increased between now and March 15 and attached to detachments of the Shansi Army.

### Sir Stafford Cripps Visits Shanghai

Sir Stafford Cripps, British leftist MP who was expelled from the Labor Party about a year ago for advocating a "united front" with the Communists in defiance of his party's decision on this question, arrived in Shanghai this week from Hongkong after visiting Chungking, Sinkiang Province and Russia. At Chungking on March 5, after the trip to Sinkiang, Sir Stafford characterized as untrue all press reports alleging that Sinkiang was under Soviet domination. He found no evidence of such domination at any place he visited, he asserted. From Sinkiang, Sir Stafford flew to Moscow where he spent 36 hours talking with Soviet leaders, including Stalin, according to one report.

# Peasants Accuse "Local Despots"

**In country areas, peasants have been terrorized for decades by political gangsters; the government rural service corps now encourages the peasants to eradicate them.**

LOCAL despots or bullies (惡霸), to whom there have been many references since liberation in all reports on rural work, are a product of the feudal social system added to the people's burdens by the Kuomintang and left behind with various other evil legacies. It would be unrealistic to picture these personages as wealthy men and large landlords, or to paint them as abnormally fierce and formidable in appearance. In Fukien's countryside, for example, which is an impoverished area with insufficient arable land for its population, these despots or bullies did not necessarily come from wealthy families or even always from the landlord class.

In general these elements—who in the rural areas do indeed constitute a special class of their own—were in the past invariably backed by political support. Often these individuals were the acting heads of villages and rural towns. They had the authority, which they exercised in a brutal fashion, to carry out orders from above relating to conscription and taxation. They acted arbitrarily always, exploiting the peasants in their areas to the very limit of the latter's resources. While these reactionary elements did not always possess land themselves, though usually they did, they had a certain social position, even though it might only extend within the confines of a very tiny village. Usually they had guns and their own feudal retinue, no matter how small the number. The extent of the area under their control, the number of guns in their possession and the size of their followers determined their social status—that is, whether they were minor or major local despots. Tyranny was the order of the day during their rule and they were feared very much by the peasant population.

## Crimes Against the People

These despots took advantage of the ignorance of the peasants and readily terrorized the latter with threats of conscription and imprisonment in order to drain the last cent from the pockets of the poorest farmers. The money, of course, went straight into the pockets of these despots. On every public occasion and festival, or just whenever the despot felt like inventing a pretext, money would be exacted from the peasants. Sometimes a parent paid as often as twice a year for the exemption of his only son from conscription. Public funds were squeezed by these elements who stooped to further exactions from the farmers for occasions celebrating the despots' personal memoration dates, such as birthdays of the latter's parents and children or their own birthdays. They assumed that these occasions were public events, and it was standard practice in the countryside for farmers to pay up on such occasions. Failure or refusal to do so would mean death, imprisonment or retaliation on family members. There was absolutely no recourse for the peasants until liberation.

Sometimes when these local bullies found that they had more money than they knew what to do with at the moment, or sometimes for business reasons of their own, they would loan small sums of money to needy peasants at exorbitant interest rates. When the farmers failed to pay, for they could not pay at the high rates set, their land was taken from them. These hated elements were free to arrest anyone at will and mete out punishment as they liked. As they were always closely connected with the then ruling political group, they knew that there would be no interference from above with the ruthless policies which they executed.

## Confusion and Fear

Of course these elements enjoy no such prerogatives since liberation. It may well be asked why it is that the People's Government, which has promised leniency to any reactionary elements who sincerely repent, regards it as so important to pull these local bullies out from the dens where they are hiding into public light. The reasons are many. First of all, it must be pointed out that these local despots do not give up their prerogatives willingly. They remember the past as a sweet memory and secretly hope that the old regime, under which they lived comfortably while exploiting the people, will return. The old privileges are still too attractive for these elements to forget them easily, and, as they are no longer in a position to terrorize the people in the old way, they try to intimidate them now with subtle threats and rumors, with implications of future retaliation and bloodshed. As long as these persons are left at large, the people will be confused and act with fear.

That is why the People's Government has placed such important emphasis on the task of eliminating these elements—in order that the peasants may really be free to participate fully in the new era which China has entered. But in struggling against these elements, many think in terms of physical elimination, brutal killing and retaliatory beating. This is not the case nor is this the government's policy. The elimination of local despots is looked upon as the eradication of a special class of people who lived idly at the expense of others—who lived on the labor of other people. These elements never knew the meaning of toil; they lived comfortably and even luxuriously, while peasants lived on potatoes and the barest minimum for survival. Eradication does not mean killing each individual local despot. It is a comparatively simple thing to kill an individual, but it is not so simple to eradicate a system that has taken root in this nation for centuries. The task before the People's Government is the complete elimination of this absurd system—i.e. elimination of all remnant vestiges of feudalism. Wherever possible, it is desirable to try to make these individual despots and bullies realize their errors, to make them see how they are hated by the people, and if possible to convert them into new people. Wherever unpardonable crimes have been perpetrated against the people and where demands for punishment of these crimes against the people are made, it is the duty of the People's Government to see that justice is administered.

## Farmers' Associations

In the process of "elimination of local despots"—an important phase of the land-reform program-three steps usually precede this action: 1) the organization of farmers' associations; 2) the collection of evidence; 3) convening a "public struggle meeting."

In the experiences of the rural service corps it has been noted that newly liberated peasants are not always responsive at first. The peasants are suspicious of strangers, especially those who wear uniforms. They nod their heads saying "yes" to every question and problem put before them by representatives of the rural service corps. At first they eye the people who have come to help them in the same way that they would look at KMT soldiers who never visited the peasants except to collect gifts, presents or confiscate their belongings. But gradually these peasants are impressed with the simple way in which the members of the rural service corps live; they are impressed too by the fact that invitations to meals are refused.

And while all this is going on between members of the rural service corps and the peasants, the local despot or bully will usually get in touch with members of the corps in order to influence them. Often these despots may have some formal education or be the most highly educated individuals in the area. They know how to talk in a progressive way. They damn the old regime to members of the rural service corps, all the time secretly hating the latter for their interference. And, as the local bully enters the scene, the peasants retreat.

But this situation does not last long. In one way or another, progressive and forward elements from among the peasantry come forth, people who want to cooperate with and supply all the required material to the rural service corps for organizing the peasants for a "struggle against the local despots."

With these elements as a nucleus, less stubborn but still very suspicious peasants can be approached and convinced that the rural service corps exists only to help them improve their conditions, and that to do this it is necessary for the farmers to establish their own organization.

## Peasants' Worries

The more contacts the corps members have the more secrets are unearthed, and the easier it is to secure the confidence of the peasants. Then an outline for the formation of a farmers' association is submitted to the peasants for discussion, for by this

time many peasants have been interested in the idea.

But the difficulties do not end with the formation of a farmers' association. For the farmers' association is one thing, while the struggle meeting against the tyrant who has terrorized them for years is another. While it is common practice for the peasants to submit a petition for the arrest of the local despot, upon the presentation of which the People's Government complies, there are very few peasants who are willing to come to the fore at this point and testify about the criminal acts of the accused. This is not because they have pity for the individual who has fallen from power —they are still very bitter and vehement when questioned about their past sufferings at his hands—but it is due to the fact that when they are invited to confront the accused and accuse him openly, even the boldest of them hesitates at first. They do not regard it as their duty to decide the fate of their common foe though they now discuss freely the treatment he meted out to them over the years. The peasants expect the old form of justice and at first the new democratic way of administering justice is too overwhelming for them to understand and appreciate.

There are two latent factors which are responsible for the adoption of such a passive attitude by the peasants at this point in their development. One is their diffidence regarding the strength of the People's Government, and the second is their dread of the "tiger" even if he is a "caged tiger." What if the government cannot tame this "tiger," they wonder? What if this "tiger" should be let loose once again? They have tasted his tyrannical power too long and too bitterly not to realize what this would mean. They dread the vengeance which would be in store for them if the old regime should be restored and they hear shameless rumors on this score propagated by the accused and his followers.

Although these rumors are very frail and without basis in fact and can be easily scotched, it takes time to convince the population of the meaning of united strength and to gain full confidence from them towards the members of the rural service corps. It is annoying to observe how much influence even a "caged tiger" can hold over them. When members of the rural service corps ask the peasants to go and talk with the bully in his den, they look appalled. Even with the full support of the government behind them, they ask: What if he should slap us and drive us out? What would we do?

## Public Struggle Meetings

But once the peasants understand their rights fully, and once their political consciousness is aroused, they are apt to become left-extremists. When they realize the strength in their united hands, they not only employ vituperation and exacerbation, but they may even attempt to resort to violence, thus creating a scene of terror and impairing the true meaning and intentions of the struggle meeting. At such a point when public sentiment has become so heightened by the accusations against the despot — which all present know to be true from personal experience — it is sometimes necessary for members of the rural service corps to adjourn the meeting to a further date in order to avoid violence. In the interim between meetings further evidence and facts are gathered so that the struggle meeting can take place in a genuinely democratic atmosphere.

*Examination of a landlord—by Yen Yu*

In fact, it is often very difficult to keep feelings under control once they have been aroused. At such a stage they are likely to erupt at the slightest touch. For example, there was the story of an old woman who tottered up to the platform to give her pitiful story of suffering at the hands of the local despot. Members of the rural service corps as well as the whole audience were very moved by her story and all felt like giving the perpetrator a kick in the shins. The old woman wept and tried to claw the "tiger" with her trembling fingers. Members of the rural service corps intervened, but in their hearts they felt that the woman's savage manner was thoroughly justified. The audience kept clamoring: "Kill him; away with him!" When such terrific explosions of human feeling take place, it is not easy to quiet people. And it is sometimes with difficulty that the "tiger" is rescued from being torn to pieces by members of the rural service corps who are present to see that justice is done.

Everyday, local newspapers here carry large notices in simple characters informing people of the dates and places where struggle meetings are to be held. Sometimes these take place in remote villages where there are no newspapers and notices are posted on bulletin boards or passed along by mouth. Many of these meetings have been very successful, resulting in the general heightening of the people's political understanding, but there are also cases of failure where a struggle meeting has degenerated into a farcical play. Where large crowds of over 100 people attend, experience has shown that often the meetings are not so successful. When less than 100 people attend, it has usually been the experience of the rural service corps that more than half of the audience have been victims of the local despot at one time or another. The other half may be related to the victims. All of these people come because they are full of righteous indignation; they come to "struggle" with the local despot who has been accused of crimes against the peasants. However, when a larger number of people attend, inevitably some come out of curiosity and such a gathering does not prove so successful as those in which the people directly involved all participate.

## Fukien "Tigers"

To cite actual cases from the Fukien rural areas of the types of crimes committed by local despots, the case of Chen Tik Min of Nan An city may be mentioned. Chen Tik Min was arrested on November 26, 1949. His crimes consisted of 1) extortion of money from peasants under the threat of conscription unless the money was paid; 2) the rape of more than 50 women; 3) practicing usury in the extension of loans to local peasants. The people who lived in his area called him "Nan An Tiger."

On November 28, 1949 Yap King Tai of Tung An district was arrested. His crimes included: 1) illegal trad-

ing in contraband—i.e., opium; 2) butchery of a whole family under the pretext of purging the village of fornication; 3) forcible occupation of peasants' farms through foreclosure on property against which usurious interest-bearing loans had been extended. These two particular local despots were well connected with KMT officials, and one of them had been appointed the head of the village.

On November 25, 1949 a second struggle meeting against Wu Yu Keng of Tung An district was held just outside the north gate. Wu is a typical local despot. He was the chief of a small town immediately adjoining this city. A very notorious person, Wu was well known among the inhabitants of the northern district for his unrelenting exploitation of the people. Shortly after liberation accusations against him piled up in the magistrate's office. He was arrested upon petition of the people.

A struggle meeting was held in his own village soon afterwards. The audience was limited to about 60 people of both sexes who had been the victims of his brutality. These people asked him for the return of their children, their husbands, wives, and property. Blood-stained clothes of family members and children were produced as part of the evidence. Tears and accusations flowed. It was decided that the meeting should include a larger number of people so all the villages within that district which had been terrorized by him were mobilized for the second meeting. By 3:00 p.m., which was the hour at which the meeting was scheduled, a crowd of over 500 people had gathered.

## The "Formidable Tiger"

It was a beautiful day and the sun shone on the crowds. The meeting was called to order; there was a loud buzz around the platform when the "tiger," the "formidable tiger" was seen. The first to speak was a very old woman who was shaking with rage. She described eloquently just how her farm had been robbed, how her cattle had been confiscated because the local despot claimed her deceased husband owed him money. She declared that the papers showing her husband's debt were a forgery.

The old woman was followed by a youngster who described how he had been beaten by the despot for failure to produce a birthday present. A middle-aged woman stood up and demanded that the tyrant produce her husband whom she said the former had wheedled away into forced conscription because he had been unable to pay to avoid conscription. As each person spoke, the "tiger" only snarled his contempt for the stories which they were telling of his own atrocities. There was no trepidation on his cruel face.

The climax was reached by the appearance of an old woman in miserable rags holding blood-stained clothes which belonged to her only son who had been killed by the despot. Telling her story all the while, she forced her way to the "tiger's" side and thrashed his head with the blood-stained clothing. The "tiger" started to snarl. But the people began to shout: "Away with him! Shoot him!" He was obviously shaken by the shouts and became very tame all at once. The old woman continued her story. Her only son was killed by the tyrant for a careless remark made about the latter's embezzlement of public funds. "Oh, tyrant," she cried, "give me back my son!" Everyone was deeply moved by this pitiful spectacle.

The very moment the old woman stopped talking, a general buzz rose from the audience who were now busily discussing and recalling various acts of the despot. Others followed with public accusations giving their stories and the shouts, "Kill him! Shoot him!" continued. It was necessary for members of the rural service corps to end the session; feelings were running too high. But before this was done, the people forced the despot to kneel down, to acknowledge all his past crimes and beg the pardon of the people he had wronged so cruelly. But how shall he be treated? Will he be punished with death as the people demanded? That remains to be seen and will be decided by the people's court.

The present tasks are being accomplished—awakening the common people so that they may understand that they are the masters of new China and not the slaves of a few bureaucratic individuals.

Work of the rural service corps is progressing satisfactorily, but because of the shortage of rural personnel it has not yet been possible to deal with all the local despots in the Fukien area, only with the most notorious ones. But by the end of this year, many trainees will be ready for rural service, and with their help and that of a united people, it will be possible to eradicate once and for all those rural tyrants who fattened on the sufferings of China's peasants.

*— H. C. HUANG*

# Tientsin Waterworks Reorganized

***Tientsin's two waterworks, one municipally-owned and one privately-owned, were reorganized into one organization the first of this month. Review correspondent Betty Chang reports the details of the merger:***

* * *

THE Tientsin Municipal Waterworks and the Tientsin Waterworks Company, Limited, a joint Sino-foreign private concern for the past 40 years, were amalgamated on March 2 into one public waterworks enterprise for the entire city.

Public utilities representatives and those of the organizations concerned have long realized that this unification was necessary if water processing were to keep pace with the needs of this rapidly developing industrial city, which requires increasing quantities of water of uniform quality and purity. The capital available to each company was insufficient for the present works program.

Negotiations on the amalgamation were largely concluded by the end of 1949 but the final decision awaited discussion with the Municipal Council and representatives of the Tientsin People's All-Circles Conference.

Following passage of the resolution by these conferences, the Municipal Government directed:

1) Amalgamation of the two companies into a single concern to be named the Tientsin Municipal Waterworks Company, and administered by the municipality;

2) Guarantee of interest payments on shares in the companies;

3) Appointment of one chief engineer and concurrent general manager and of three other managers.

Of these appointments by Tientsin's mayor, one of the three managers is the former director of the original Tientsin Municipal Waterworks, while the other three appointments are from the former private company staff. The board of 14 directors for the former private company is to call a meeting of all shareholders for the purpose of electing representatives from among themselves to manage their own capital interests. Then the present board will dissolve. Confidence in the combined public company was concretely shown by an increase of almost 20 percent in share value the day following formal amalgamation.

Government representation showed genuine concern for private capital investments, some of which are foreign. Annual interest of 349,000 catties of millet to be paid on the 100,000,000 shares at three-month intervals is guaranteed by the municipality. If the books show a profit at the end of the year, the shareholders will be apportioned an additional fair share of it.

The staff and workers of both amalgamated companies remain on their jobs as before. Salaries of the original government workers are to be raised to a par with prevailing salaries and wages paid personnel of the former private organization. This wage scale was agreed upon by the workers of that company for themselves and even for their management after Tientsin's liberation.

The management sees decided revitalization in workers' morale under the new city-wide public waterworks organization, which will bring about increased efficiency in production and enable the extension program already in progress to be carried out. Representatives of capital comment on this step toward socialization of public utilities works as "smooth and satisfactory."

# New China News Agency - Yenan to Peking

**Founded in Yenan in 1936 as a mimeographed news sheet, the *NCNA* today is the official news agency for China, with offices here and abroad.**

DURING the days of the Nationalist Government the main newsgathering agency in China was the official *Central News Agency*, which supplied papers with both domestic and foreign news. In a few large cities such as Shanghai, papers also subscribed to the services of foreign news agencies —the *Associated Press, United Press, Reuter, Agence France Presse*, etc.— printing their domestic coverage of China as well as their dispatches from abroad.

Since liberation, the task of distributing both national and foreign news has been assumed by the *New China News Agency*, which operates as a unit of the Press Administration of the Central People's Government in Peking.

The *NCNA* has six main offices and 46 branch offices in China and five offices overseas (Hongkong, London, Prague, Moscow, and Phyongyang, North Korea). Through this network it exercises the dual function of distributing news within China and reporting on domestic developments for consumption abroad.

Within China, its news file consists primarily of domestic news of national interest plus foreign news gleaned from its own correspondents abroad or quoted from *Tass* and other foreign news agency dispatches. Abroad, it is at present the main source of news from China, since the only correspondents who are permitted to work in China are those who represent newspapers or news agencies in countries which have recognized the People's Government.

## Started in Yenan

The *New China News Agency* has had a parallel growth with the revolutionary war waged by the Chinese Communist Party, under whose leadership it began.

Founded in Yenan in 1936, it first appeared as a mimeographed news sheet containing news broadcasts monitored from the news agencies of Britain, the United States, France and Japan, as well as the KMT *Central News Agency*. It was on this news sheet that the isolated bases of the Chinese Communist Party depended for information of the outside world.

In 1937-38, the *NCNA* served as a forwarding post of party directives to Communist bases behind the Japanese lines. It also handled the exchange of messages among the bases.

In May, 1945 the *NCNA* undertook the operation of a newspaper—the *Liberation Daily*—which subsequently enlarged the scope of its news coverage. It then had three branch offices —in northwest Shansi province, Taihang in Hopeh province, and in the Shansi-Chahar-Hopeh border area. It covered mainly news of guerilla warfare behind the Japanese lines. News broadcasts intercepted from abroad and from the *Central News Agency* were supplied to the *Liberation Daily* and to the branch offices for reference.

During the 1946 Political Consultative Conference in Chungking, the *NCNA* was enlarged to cope with the rapid political and military developments, and it began to challenge the *Central News Agency* in the national field. By this time, the *Liberation Daily* and its sister paper in Chungking, the *Hsin Hua Daily*, were being separately operated.

In March 1947, however, when KMT forces under the command of Hu Tsung-nan attacked Yenan, the *NCNA* was forced to move successively to the Shansi-Suiyuan, Shansi-Chahar-Hopeh and Taihang border areas. A year later, with the launching of the Communist counter offensive, the agency moved back to Pingshan in the Shansi-Chahar-Hopeh border area. After Peking's liberation it established itself in that city.

## Press and Radio

Until comparatively recently, the *New China News Agency* acted not only as a news agency but also had newspaper publishing and broadcasting responsibilities. With the rapid liberation of vast areas of China and the formation of the Central People's Government, it was relieved of these additional functions.

Official Communist Party newspapers now operate alongside privately-owned papers in each of the major cities (*People's Daily* in Peking, *Liberation Daily* in Shanghai, etc.) Until last December they were subsidized by the government. A meeting of the State Administration Council in December, however, decided to put these newspapers on a self-supporting basis. The Council declared that 1) official newspapers must not be sold at a price lower than the cost price of the newsprint (the papers had been sold more cheaply in rural districts than in the cities); 2) domestic newsprint is to be used in place of imported newsprint wherever possible; 3) contracts should be signed with the Post Office for the circulation of the papers, and the special subscription rate for group subscribers should be not less than 70 percent of the ordinary price; 4) papers may take commercial advertisements, but their contents must be approved and the advertising space limited.

The Council appointed a special body charged with the responsibility of supervising the production of domestic newsprint, setting import quotas for newsprint, and rationing imported newsprint. This body is made up of representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Light Industries, and Education, Customs, and the Press and Publications Administrations. Its chairman is Vice Premier Huang Yen-pei, and its vice chairman, Fan Chang-kiang, Deputy Director of the Press Administration.

Radio broadcasting now is directed by a special committee of the Press Administration which exercises supervision over some 49 government broadcasting stations. There are also some 30 commercial broadcasting stations, most of them centered in Shanghai.

## Directed by Committee

The *New China News Agency* itself is directed by a 17-man committee headed by Chen Ke-han. Until December, the agency had been directed by Hu Chiao-mu, now director of the Press Administration. Its vice-director was Fan Chang-kiang, now deputy director of the Press Administration. Under the executive committee are editorial and administrative departments.

*NCNA's* six main offices are located in each of the administrative areas of China—the Northeast, North China, the Northwest, Central China, and East China. There is also a main office in Shantung province. Branch offices exist in each province and in each field army headquarters.

The average volume of messages, both incoming and outgoing, handled by the agency amounts to between 19,000 and 21,000 words daily. The overseas file is about 4,000 words daily.

The *New China News Agency* is not noted for its speed, since its stories are carefully verified before being released. Its reports of military developments, for example, invariably are slower than the non-official reports published in the Chinese press. Perhaps its record for fast handling of a story was its report on the conclusion of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Aid which was carried on February 14, the same day the treaty was signed.

Among the problems faced by the *New China News Agency*, as well as the official newspapers and broadcasting stations, is a shortage of trained personnel. Last October the *NCNA* organized a journalists' training class in Peking. In December, this class was enlarged to become a journalists' school under the supervision of the Press Administration. Its principal is the Press Administration's deputy director Fan Chang-kiang. The school has a present enrollment of 285 students, many of them former staff members of the old *Central News Agency* and other KMT press organs who are going through a process of re-education. The first group of graduates is scheduled for May of this year.

— *YU WAH*

# Terror in South Korea

**American aid, police terror, peasant uprisings and endless feuds between ruling cliques add up to a picture not unlike the last days of Kuomintang China.**

IN Seoul, capital of Syngman Rhee's government of South Korea, the story is told of a Korean patriot who met, in the streets of Seoul, a man who had once had him tortured.

This patriot is working for the American Military Advisory Group in Korea. During the war, he had been imprisoned and tortured for his anti-Japanese activities. One day, on his way to work at American headquarters, he saw the man who had been in command of his torturers. His first impulse was to attack him. But then he saw that the man wore the uniform of a captain in Syngman Rhee's police.

There are 50,000 police in South Korea, and an army of 100,000 men. In 1948, more than half the officers above the rank of lieutenant had worked for the Japanese.

The chiefs of staff of the army are generally officers who gained their experience under the Japanese; although it is said that younger, American-indoctrinated officers are now fitted to take posts in the high command.

The highest positions in the South Korean government are already filled with people who have spent most of their lives abroad, many of them in America. Syngman Rhee himself is the protege of an American banker.

However, for all their years in America and abroad Syngman Rhee and his cohorts do not seem to have much faith in democracy. In a press statement, made on January 20 of this year, Rhee said: "The Korean people do not yet realize what democracy means. If they were left to organize political parties—as many as they wanted—terrible, sanguinary sectional fights would certainly result."

## Fascism in Practice

The people of South Korea may not know what democracy means.

But under Syngman Rhee they are learning the meaning of fascism. Rhee has said to the press: "I am not a Nazi." Meanwhile he has had the 15 opposition members in his National Assembly arrested and imprisoned. In July, 1949, nine lawyers and prosecutors in the judicial branch of the government were arrested. In November and December, another six or seven prosecutors and judges were imprisoned, whereupon 40 judges out of a total of 218 resigned because of "low salaries."

In the schools and universities much of the students' time is devoted to military drill and public demonstrations. The Education Minister is German-trained, and, in an effort to stamp out progressive thought, he has modeled his education system and youth corps on those of Nazi Germany.

Although the United States has sent an adviser to aid in the development of a "free labor movement," the government has shown no signs of changing its policy towards labor organization, which is frequently compared with that of Kuomintang China. The Korean Federation of Labor is regarded as a political instrument of the government to control the workers. Its honorary chairman is Syngman Rhee. Its acting chairman is the Minister of Social Affairs.

No opposition, no criticism of the Syngman Rhee regime is tolerated. There have been wholesale closures of progressive and opposition newspapers.

Those who have not accepted censorship and suppression in South Korea have been silenced by other means.

In July last year, Kim Koo, leader of the Han Kuk Independence Party and long-time opponent of the Japanese and Syngman Rhee, was assassinated by a South Korea Army lieutenant. Reporting this, *Life* magazine, in its August 1, 1949 issue, said: "The murder of Kim Koo was sure to stir up unrest in the US-sponsored part of Korea because Kim was a rival of President Syngman Rhee. They broke apart for good last year when Kim journeyed to Soviet North Korea to talk about uniting the nation."

## American Aid Policy

In the same month as Kim Koo was murdered, Dean Acheson warned the United States Congress: if we reject the $150,000,000 aid program to South Korea, the new republic would fall within three months.

American aid has continued to this date and Syngman Rhee has not yet been replaced by a government of a democratic people's Republic of Korea uniting the whole country. Rhee's policies continue to divide the nation in two.

But the situation in South Korea is remarkably like that in Kuomintang China before the Chinese liberation armies began their offensive.

After the defeat of Japan, which had oppressed Korea for 40 years, Korea was divided into two zones of occupation at the 38th parallel. Soviet armies occupied North Korea and American armies the South.

The Soviet armies were withdrawn by the end of 1948, and the Americans withdrew some months later. In the North, a people's democratic government uniting all progressive Korean parties took over from the Soviet occupation forces. In the South, the Syngman Rhee government was formed, supported by an American Military Advisory Group and the Economic Cooperation Administration.

The South Korea government has turned out to be as incompetent, corrupt and brutal as Chiang Kai-shek's regime was in China.

But, as in China, the United States seems unwilling and unable to withdraw its economic, military and political props from a hopelessly reactionary government.

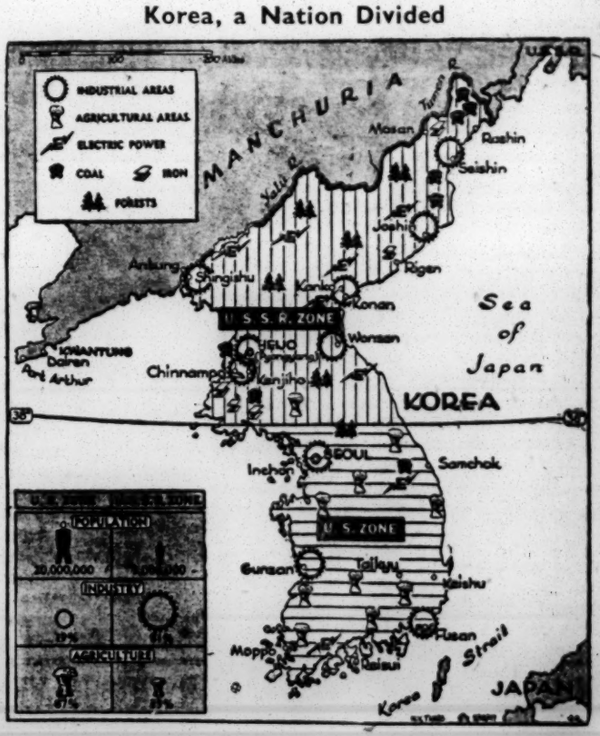
The South Korean Ambassador to Washington said, on January 20, that it would be "very difficult" to keep South Korea from "falling into Communist hands" if American aid stopped

Responding to this appeal, the United States is becoming even more deeply involved. Its Military Advisory Group and Economic Cooperation Administration are working overtime to improve the South Korea Army and prevent the economy of the country from collapsing under inflationary pressures.

Some American observers are reported to be concerned over the trend events are taking.

The morale of the army, according to American officers, is high—in spite of the defection of some units last year. But the troops have a habit of conscripting peasant labor for difficult

**Korea, a Nation Divided**




Korea is still divided, as shown in the above map, at the 38th parallel, although both the Soviet and US occupation forces have withdrawn. The northern section is now under a provisional democratic government, and the South under the government of Syngman Rhee.

work and are rather fond of beating those peasants who don't obey orders. The attitude of the police is no better. During a debate in the National Assembly, one assemblyman said that in his district the son of a blind farmer was shot by the police during a forced rice collection. "This is only one of such victims in our country," he said. The official explanation, he added, was that the policeman meant to shoot the farmer's dog.

There are still members of the National Assembly who occasionally speak out against police terror. Some American observers express hopes that these "democratic individualist" elements may gain more strength if American aid and influence are increased.

The fact remains that American aid put Rhee in power and is keeping him in power, and that Rhee is using this power to wipe out all opposition including the so-called individualists who disagree with him.

## Destroying the Opposition

Many prominent people have died under police and army torture. Cases include a former professor of law at Chosun Christian College who died in a Seoul police station a few hours after arrest. Cause of death was given as electric shock.

A professor of botany at Seoul Normal College died in an Inchon police station. The Prosecutor General said it appeared he had been beaten to death. He was described in a unanimous resolution of the National Assembly as "an earnest scholar who devoted 20-odd years to the study of botany."

A district chief of the auxiliary police was reportedly killed by torture in an army intelligence post. After the case had been publicized, it was announced that one soldier had been sentenced to hard labor.

On January 17, several assemblymen brought their grievances against the police out into the open. One referred to what critics of the police call "the human flesh distribution case" which occurred last September at Mokpo, seaport at the southwest corner of Korea.

Escaped and recaptured prisoners were allegedly taken around the town, shot on the doorsteps of various citizens and left there, apparently to terrify these people. "Many citizens witnessed these things themselves," the speaker said.

"Assemblyman Kang Sun Myung discovered one of the prisoners on his doorstep," he added. "But everybody was so scared of the police that none of them could speak up publicly. If the National Assembly keeps its mouth shut it will only contribute to darkening the unrest of the people."

A pro-government speaker criticized the lurid title applied to the incident. "What is the idea of calling this case the 'human flesh distribution case' without asking what kind of people these dead are?" he asked. "They are the most vicious Communists."

There is a "darkening unrest" in South Korea. Life is becoming intolerable for workers, farmers and intellectuals alike.

The one solution offered by Syngman Rhee is to throw more people in jail, kill Communists and expand the size of his army.

Wholesale arrests have overflowed the jails and forced the government to establish "reeducation camps." The official capacity of South Korean jails is listed as 15,000. On August 15, 1948, there were 14,000 prisoners. Last month the official figure was 40,000.

The *New China News Agency* reported from Phyongyang on January 25 that a frantic effort is being made to expand the army through conscription of all young men over 20 years old.

Reports also say that these conscription measures are meeting with strong resistance. Many young men refused to report for enlistment and many were arrested for distributing leaflets against conscription. Of the first batch of 10,900 persons who underwent physical examination for army service in Seoul, 7,900 are reported to have given false addresses.

Revolts are also reported within the South Korean Army and Navy. On October 27, last year, when partisan forces swept down on Tindyu city in South Keisyo province, 300 naval officers and men in the city revolted and joined forces with the partisans, helping to wipe out four companies of the "national defense army." Several naval vessels have, during the last few months, defected and sailed to North Korean ports.

## The Partisan Movement

The opposition movement in South Korea has developed into an armed struggle.

Reports from Phyongyang say that up to August 10, 1949, the operations of the people's partisans covered eight provinces, seven cities, 118 counties and 682 districts. South Korea has, in all, eight provinces, 15 cities, 133 counties and 1,528 districts.

Most of the mountain ranges in South Korea, the Sopyaksan and the Daihaku, and the entire Hannasan range in the Quelpart Islands, are under the control of the partisans. In these mountain areas are the bases for guerilla operations in six provinces.

The number of men mobilized by the partisans rose from 16,257 in April 1949 to 89,924 in October 1949.

During the seven months between last April and October, the guerilla troops, supported by the local population, wiped out 7,811 and captured 1,735 troops of the government forces, according to the South Korea paper *Laborer*. In October alone, 903 troops were taken prisoner.

The partisan movement in South Korea is based on town and country opposition to the Syngman Rhee government.

A new phase in the popular armed struggle was marked last October by peasant revolts throughout South Korea. The peasants rose in protest against government levies of grain.

In two counties of South Zenra province, 7,500 peasants began an uprising on October 29. Under the slogan of a "Democratic People's Republic of Korea," peasants in the villages of South and North Zenra, and South and North Keisyo provinces soon joined the uprising. In many districts they are reported to have restored the People's Committees that had been banned by the United States authorities during the early period of occupation.

The conflict in South Korea is expected to become more intense this year. There is growing disillusionment among the people concerning Syngman Rhee's conception of democracy; and the Rhee government, bereft of all popular support, is now leaning solely upon American aid from without and police terror within.

Recent history in China should indicate the consequences of such a policy.

*(This article is based on recent press agency and newspaper reports from South Korea, including a series of articles in the New York Times, and reports from North Korea carried by the New China News Agency).*

## Agricultural Conference Closes

THE 15-day Agricultural Conference was concluded on March 9 in Peking after reaching a number of decisions for improving agricultural work in the country, the *NCNA* reported from Peking this week.

Convened by the Ministry of Agriculture, the conference was attended by more than 180 delegates from experimental stations, provincial departments of agriculture, experts from state-owned farms, professors from agricultural colleges, labor heroes and skilled farmers, who unanimously acknowledged Michurin's theories as the fundamental guide for future work.

Yong Hsien-tung, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, was quoted as summing up the results of the conference in four main points. First, he said, lines of past agricultural research work and past development of agriculture had been thoroughly reviewed and confirmed the need to follow Michurin's theories. Second, methods for organizing experimental and development work had been agreed upon. Third, a plan was drawn up whereby all staple crop seed in North China would be replaced with improved seed in five years' time. Fourth, the conference worked out plans for pest and plant disease control and for improving fruit cultivation and animal husbandry.

Last spring, it was revealed at the conference, more than 33,000 hectares of land were planted with improved, selected seed for cotton, wheat, corn and millet. Since then peasants have been drawn into seed selection campaigns on a large scale. In south Chahar, for example, 70 percent and in Shansi province more than 80 percent of all peasant families participated. As a result, more than 667,000 hectares are being sown with selected grain and cotton seed in North China this year.

Big efforts are to be made to reach and surpass pre-war agricultural levels in all categories of farming as quickly as possible.

# NEWS OF THE WEEK

## International Women's Day; Soviet Election; South and North Korea

THE two big events of the week in China were the return of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai to Peking on March 5 and the celebrations held throughout the country in honor of International Women's Day on March 8. Cities in the Northeast as well as Peking, Shanghai and Canton organized programs in honor of International Women's Day which included rallies, meetings, parades, exhibitions, movies and plays.

Pointing out the special significance of International Women's Day in China this year, leading popular organizations including the All-China Democratic Women's Federation, the All-China Federation of Labor, the New Democratic Youth League, the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth and the All-China Students Federation, issued a statement commemorating the occasion. China's women are now liberated from enslavement and oppression and have control of the destiny of new China, the statement said.

"This year the women of China must continue to give full support to the People's Liberation Army and play an active part in industry, agriculture, land reform and spare time production in wiping out Kuomintang remnants and breaking the power of local despots.

"In industry, women must come to grips with machines, learn techniques, join the trade unions and actively take part in production campaigns to restore and develop production side by side with men.

"In agriculture, they must play an active part on the land, master techniques and struggle for the fulfillment of the grain and cotton plans.

"Women intellectuals, students and women of all professions should improve themselves ideologically and strive to serve the masses of the laboring people," the statement concluded.

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### Participation in Government

WOMEN in China have gained complete political equality with men and are equal partners in building the new China.

In addition to the fact that Soong Ching-ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen) is now a vice-chairman of the Central People's Government, two women have been elected to the Central People's Government Council while 19 women have been appointed to key posts in the Central People's Government as members of various commissions and vice ministries.

There were 69 women among the 662 delegates to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, roughly 10 percent of all the delegates to the conference.

At all levels of the people's government down to the village governments, women are holding administrative posts alongside the men, stated the *NCNA*, which goes on to say that in the first session of the Peking People's Conference of All Circles held last year, for instance, 42 of the 330 delegates, or one out of every seven, were women. Women delegates to the Northeast People's Conference last year formed approximately 14 percent of the total number.

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### Shanghai Celebrations

IN Shanghai women in industry took the lead in organizing local celebrations under the auspices of the Shanghai General Labor Union. A half-day's holiday was granted by the government to mark the women's festival. Women workers from more than 80 local cotton-weaving factories, and some 24 other trade unions, under the guidance of the Shanghai General Labor Union took part in the celebrations.

Simultaneous with the local celebrations was the formation of a Women's Cultural Association.

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### Provincial Activity

THE *NCNA* reported that women's activities in Central China had stepped up with more than 1,000,000 working women organized in Honan. Where agrarian reform has been carried through, women form a third of the membership of peasant unions. In Kiangsi, Honan and Shantung as well as other provinces, women are beginning to master agricultural techniques and play an important role in the preparations and sowing of this year's crops. They are working alongside men in pest control campaigns—near the Gulf of Pohai alone, 55,000 women joined in a campaign to exterminate cotton pests—and they work too on projects to reinforce dikes along the Yellow River. Over 10,000 women or a third of all women workers have joined their trade unions in Hankow whereas in Tsinan, over 95 percent of all women workers have joined trade unions. Out of 14 members on the Preparatory Committee of the local Trade Union Council of Changsha, seven are women.

In the fields of production and politics women have made great progress during the past year. For example, a woman worker in a Tsinan textile factory exceeded the highest cloth output ever produced there under Japanese or Kuomintang rule. In a Hupeh district, 10 village heads are women; in Honan women occupy many district and county positions.

And in the Northeast over 50,000 women workers are members of trade unions, this number representing an increase of about 27 percent over July of last year. The first train with an all-women crew set out from Dairen for Port Arthur at 4:30 p.m. on March 8 in order to celebrate the new role of China's women on International Women's Day.

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### First International Day

A strike and demonstration by women workers in Chicago on March 8, 1909, gave birth to International Women's Day, according to the Shanghai *Sin Wenz Weekly*, March 11 issue.

On that day, the working women of Chicago fought for liberty and equality, taking part in a great strike and demonstration which won a wide and enthusiastic response throughout America.

In 1910, at the Women's Conference of the Second International held at Copenhagen, Clara Zetkin, German women's and world revolutionary leader, proposed that March 8 be designated as International Women's Day.

The conference passed Clara Zetkin's proposal and brought forward several slogans including the "Eight Hour Working Day", "Equal Pay for Equal Work", and "Protect Child Labor".

Women workers in Germany, Austria, Sweden, Denmark, America and other countries held demonstrations in observation of the first International Women's Day in 1911.

The day was first observed by Chinese women in 1924. In Canton, a meeting of celebration was held at the First Park followed by a parade. After 1924, the observation of March 8 gradually spread throughout the country and became widely adopted by the women of China.

### DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

**Norfolk, W. Va., March 8**

**The flow of American arms, worth $1,000,000,000, to Western Europe began today when a heavy crane hoisted an American bombing plane aboard the French aircraft carrier *Dixmude*.**

* * *

**Washington, March 5**

**President Harry S. Truman has honored two Negroes on the White House staff, one of them his barber, who have worked at the White House for 41 years.**

**Mr. Truman called the two men to his office and presented them with an autographed $1 bill and his congratulations.**

## Return to Peking

MAO Tse-tung and Chou En-lai were welcomed back by an enthusiastic group of Peking residents and government officials. Members of the PLA who formed the guard of honor for the Chairman's arrival were much in demand to describe how he looked. "He was smiling and seemed very happy," they said, "and has never looked so healthy."

In a statement published in the Peking *People's Daily* on March 8, Li Chi-shen, Chairman of the Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee, referred to Chairman Mao Tse-tung's wise leadership which brought about the establishment of the People's Republic of China and said: "Today we are all the more grateful because he concluded the new Sino-Soviet treaty which will ensure the successful reconstruction of new China."

Chang Lan, Chairman of the China Democratic League, was quoted on the same occasion: "On behalf of the China Democratic League, I am deeply grateful for the great friendship of the Soviet Union and the industrious work of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung and Premier Chou En-lai in bringing the Sino-Soviet treaty into being."

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## Fighting Epidemics

WITH the first signs of epidemics this spring, the medical corps under the direction of the Public Health Ministry of the Central Peoples Government has gone into action. An anti-plague team of 154 with enough vaccine for 1,000,000 people was rushed from the Northeast to the southern part of Kwangtung Province following reports of the first cases of bubonic plague there. In Fukien Province, the experienced Inner Mongolian anti-plague personnel are working with the People's Provincial Government to check the spread of plague in several counties of that province. To uproot this deadly epidemic thoroughly in Chahar Province the Public Health Ministry of the Central People's Government has set up a plague prevention and cure clinic there.

According to the *NCNA*, vaccine for 20,000,000 people has already been sent to Sinkiang, Szechuen, Honan, Shantung and Anhwei provinces by the Public Health Ministry to check outbreaks of smallpox.

The Public Health Ministry is reported to have made special arrangements with the Dairen Institute for Public Health and the Tientsin Epidemic Prevention Department for producing serum and vaccines for all kinds of infectious diseases. The Ministry is also working on plans to establish special kala azar clinics along the banks of the Yellow River where this disease has always been prevalent. Special measures including the extermination of lice are being taken against typhus and recurring fevers.

## Farmer's Meeting Opens

THE first meeting of the Shanghai Farmers' Representative Council took place from March 10 to 15, with some 500 delegates representing 500,000 farmers in the city's suburbs present.

Among the items discussed during the five-day session were the problems of increasing production, reduction of land taxes, promotion of cooperative enterprises and establishment of a suburban farmers' association.

The chairman of the preparatory committee of the farmers' association, Mr. Chang Yao-hsiang, opened the meeting with a review of local developments as they affected the farmers in the city's suburban areas. Shanghai's farmers, he said, had made considerable progress during the eight post-liberation months in their efforts to improve their conditions. Initial success, he said, had been achieved in the preparatory work for establishing the farmers' association, in abolishing the old KMT *pao chia* system, increasing farm production, and so on.

# A New School for Women

AN example of the way in which education is being carried to the villages of China was contained in a *New China News Agency* dispatch from Yenan last week.

The dispatch told the story of a teacher named Miss Li who was sent by the People's Government of North Shensi to the village of Liu Chia Cheng where, like so many backward and isolated parts of rural China, "century-old superstitions are engrained and...local opinion was all against women going out of their homes at all."

The dispatch said Miss Li had to conduct her "school" by visiting her women pupils in their homes. It continued:

"But she had very little success, for her 26 students applied themselves to learning with small enthusiasm. They had too many other troubles, they said, to take on another one.

"The wife of a blacksmith Su told her one day. 'I have lost ten of my thirteen children and my health is bad. I cannot put any heart into this study.'

"Miss Li discovered that the blacksmith's wife was no exception. In that one village, 43 out of 54 women were suffering from some sort of gynaecological disorder, and in the recent past 104 infants had died out of 154 born. Over half of the total death rate in the village was composed of infants. It was clear, therefore, that the main thing which concerned the women of Liu Chia Cheng was how to bring their babies into the world alive and healthy, and how to protect them from the ills and diseases to which so many had succumbed during their first hours of breathing.

"After discussions with the village head, the local government political workers, and the school trustees, a plan for education in hygiene was widely publicized in the village. A series of large illustrations were designed to demonstrate modern methods of child delivery. All those who had taken part in the discussions encouraged their own wives and relatives to attend the school.

"The plan was received with enthusiasm by the women of the village. Within a week, the enrolment of the winter school increased from 26 to 70, from which three classes were formed according to the age of the students. Those under 15 were given instruction in reading, in addition to simple rules of hygiene. The second class, composed of women between 15 and 35, were taught hygiene and child bearing, with a little literary study, supplemented in the case of those women who were pregnant by prenatal courses in infant delivery. For older women the curriculum consisted only of instruction in hygiene.

"When the school began there were eight pregnant women in the village, so naturally great attention was concentrated upon their tuition. The wife of Liu Chien Hai had previously lost two children through tetanus. Tremendous care was taken in explaining to her the cause of this disease, for it was a long time before she would believe that there were germs on the unsterilized scissors which would cause 'paralysis after four to six days of birth' if the umbilical cord were cut by them.

"When the time came for her delivery, she was persuaded to lie down instead of sitting for three days according to old Chinese tradition. Her child was delivered by the new method, with sterilized scissors, boiled cotton cloth, and the baby thoroughly washed and wrapped in clean cloth. In defiance of the old custom of subjecting the mother to semi-starvation for a period of days after delivery, the wife of Liu Chien Hai had a good nourishing diet.

"In a month's time, the news spread swiftly through the village that both mother and child were sound and well. Other pregnant women were now eager to follow the new method.

"By the time Miss Li and finished her first winter term, the whole village was transformed. Everyone was 'hygiene conscious' and many women who had suffered from ill health for years were again strong and healthy. More than that, they realized the practical advantages of study and refused to miss any lesson that was arranged.

"In the course of their schooling they learned a great deal: how to be healthy mothers with heathy children; how to read as many as 150 Chinese characters; and what sort of government it was that sent people to bring light where darkness had been for thousands of years."

The future, Mr. Chang predicted, would be bright. The country's 380,000,000 farmers, he said, were now getting a square deal from the government. Elimination of feudalistic types of exploitation, land reform and stabilization of farmers' livelihood were all now concrete possibilities, upon which a start had already been made.

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## China's Tariff Policy

PRINCIPLES underlying new rates of customs duties for the People's Republic of China were published on March 7 in a "Resolution on Tariff Policy and Customs Service" passed by the State Administration Council of the Central People's Government, the *NCNA* reports.

According to these principles, on which the basis of new rates of customs duties are to be worked out by August 1, general and normal rates of duties will be imposed on commodities imported from countries which have trade treaties or agreements with the People's Republic of China, while higher rates of duties will be imposed on commodities imported from countries that have no such treaties or agreements.

To protect state and national production, customs duties on imported industrial products or semi-products which can be produced on a large scale within the country at present or in the future, will be higher than the discrepancy between the production costs of those products and the production costs of the same kind of products made in China. In the case of production equipment and materials, industrial raw materials, farming machines, grain seeds and fertilizers, produced little or not at all in China, customs duties will be low or they may even be exempt from duty.

All necessary scientific books on and pests, and on medicines which cannot be produced in this country and for which there are no local substitutes, will be subject to low duties.

Higher duties will be imposed on unessential and luxury commodities.

***Chinese Press Opinion:***

# Economic Developments

POINTING out the importance of relief work at the present time the *Ta Kung Pao* of March 9, 1950 disclosed in an editorial that 100,000,000 mow of fertile farmland had been made unproductive through last year's flood with the result that the production of agricultural products had been reduced by 12,000,000 catties in 1949 and a total of 40,000,000 people had become refugees.

In East China alone, the paper added, "over 50,000,000 mow of farmland has been made unproductive by the flood and 16,000,000 people have become famine refugees. In some areas, such as North Anhwei, the refugees have nothing to eat ..." Under the slogan, "not a single person will die from hunger," the People's Government has taken upon itself the responsibility for administering relief to the refugees," continued the paper.

The policy towards relief work is "to produce agricultural goods, for individuals to save as much foodstuff as possible, to help each other through cooperative methods, to put the refugees to work and to give direct relief."

The editorial continued by stating that the central authorities are prepared to release from 130,000 000 to 200,000,000 catties of foodstuffs for direct relief and pointed out that the foodstuff will be given to refugees so that they may engage in such important tasks as building dikes, reclaiming land and other productive enterprises.

In conclusion the paper urged every person in Shanghai to save an ounce of rice every day so that the rice so saved might go toward feeding refugees during the coming one or two months which will be the most difficult period. The *Ta Kung Pao* praised the policy of the authorities in sending 13,000 refugees from Shanghai to Tungtai, North Kiangsu to become productive farmers.

The March 10 *Ta Kung Pao* carried an editorial on the announcement by the State Administration Council of a new tariff policy and the reorganization of the Maritime Customs in which it was stated that "the door for economic aggression is now closed to the imperialists and conditions favorable to the recovery and development of the people's economy of China have been created.

The editorial pointed out that the principles laid down for the enactment of a new customs tariff which accord preferential treatment to the imports from nations with a trade pact of other agreements with China, and to certain categories of import and export items, are in conformity with the needs of a new democratic China at the present stage. The article continued by reviewing the history of the Chinese Customs Service and criticized those who held the post of "foreign Inspectorate-General" for having been defiant to their superiors, the Chungking Government, and dictatorial to their subordinates in the past.

The use of English as the official language in the Customs and the preferential treatment accorded to foreign staff under the old system were also criticized by the *Ta Kung Pao*. Chinese officials with ability and foresight often had to remain in lower positions merely because they could not speak or write good English. With the victory of the People's Revolution, the privileges of the imperialists in the customs service, as well as their privileges in other respects, have now been abolished, concluded the *Ta Kung Pao*.

## Overseas Remittances

ACCORDING to the regulations worked out between the Central Peoules Government Commission for Overseas Chinese Affairs (set up last November) and the People's Bank of China, remittances may be sent to any part of China through branches of the Bank of China in Hongkong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi, Chittagong and Rangoon. If remittances are sent to remote villages in China where no branch offices of the bank exist, the post-office will do the work.

To safeguard the families of overseas Chinese the exchange rate is adjusted from time to time in conformity with commodity prices and the remittances will be valued in terms of people's dollars on the day when the draft is drawn. The draft can also be deposited in the bank in foreign currency.

The *Ta Kung Pao* of March 11 reported that during the month of February, the Bank of China and the appointed banks in Tientsin purchased a total of 1,020 sums of overseas Chinese remittances, an increase of more than 100 actual remittances in comparison with January and equivalent to US$304,524. About 54 percent of these remittances represented capital sent to China for investment in various enterprises.

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## Shanghai's Textile Industry

LOCAL press reports stated that steady progress has been made by cotton textile mills in resuming production as a result of an improvement in the power supply situation.

It was reported that during the days immediately after the bombing of Shanghai by Nationalist planes, 90 percent of the 54 local textile mills were forced to suspend operations through lack of power. By the third week of February only five textile mills were operating in Shanghai, but by the fourth week of February the number of operating mills increased to 30 following active efforts on the part of the mills to resume operation. According to local textile circles, production in the textile industry has made further progress since the beginning of this month as a result of the increased power supply. Already some 10 textile mills are said to have installed their own generating equipment which is reported to be generating more than 8,000 kilowats.

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## Soviet Elections

THE elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics have been preceded by meetings and rallies throughout the whole country, *Moscow* reports say. "Electors, proud of their country, speak of the majestic victories of the Soviet Union, of Stalin's wise policy which has consolidated the economic and military might of the USSR, and acquaint themselves in detail with social and political activity and the work of candidates."

MANY Soviet leaders have made significant speeches during the course of the election campaign.

Addressing a meeting in the Moscow constituency where he is standing for election to the Supreme Soviet, M. Vyacheslav Molotov, Deputy Premier, affirmed "the determination of the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy to defend peace against all attempts of world imperialists to start a tnird world war."

He continued: "The imperialists are trying to frighten us now by the so-called hydrogen bomb, but let them entertain no hope of succeeding in it.

"The imperialists are now busy forging new aggressive plans. But they do not understand that to turn down peaceful competition and to impose a new war in the present circumstances would arouse such powerful indignation of the people as to wipe from the earth's surface forever both imperialism and aggression."

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THE Soviet Union's socialist system has "guaranteed" a victory in "peaceful competition" with capitalism backed by the United States, Soviet government leader Anastas Mikoyan said in an election speech on March 11, according to press reports from Moscow.

M. Mikoyan was speaking at Erivan, capital of the Soviet Republic of Armenia, where he is a candidate for election to the Supreme Soviet.

M. Mikoyan declared that the ground was "shaking under the feet" of European colonial powers such as Britain, France, Holland and Belgium.

"These powers possess too many colonies with the administration of which they can no longer cope," he said. "They are forced to retreat under pressure of the tremendously expanded monopolies of America which are straining at the leash to take possession of the colonies and to acquire new markets for the export of goods and capital investment."

The 54-year-old Caucasian Deputy Prime Minister in his speech also criticized Armenian Communists for not fulfilling their tasks.

"In spite of successes achieved one has to admit that rate of development of local industries and industrial cooperatives is not sufficient." Mikoyan also referred to the "shortcomings" of the party and Soviet organizations in Armenian agriculture.

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## Peace Delegation in Moscow

IN Moscow, on March 9, the Chairman of the Soviet Union Parfenov and Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities Kuznetsov received in the Kremlin a delegation of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress. This delegation is one of several being sent by the World Peace Congress to address various governments with proposals for safeguarding world peace.

The delegation to the Soviet government includes Yves Farge, Dastier de la Vigerie, Laurent Casanova, Lucien Jayat, Konate Kahadu, Antoine Darlan, Sandro Pertini, Mme Roenata Vigano, Emilio Lussa, Pietro Amadeo, John Platts Mills, John Rogge, Johannes Steel, Rockwell Kent, James Endicott, Dimitri Shostakovich and Academician Grekov.

Present at the reception in the Kremlin were government leaders, representatives of the All-Union Council of Soviet Trade Unions, foremost workers of Moscow enterprises, women and youth representatives. Also present were correspondents of foreign newspapers and agencies.

Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities Kuznetsov said, in a brief address, that the decision of the Permanent Committee to send delegations to present to parliaments an appeal containing proposals for safeguarding peace was "a noteworthy contribution to the cause of ensuring a lasting and durable peace," and that it would find widespread support among all "honest-minded" people.

The proposals suggest a universal reduction of armaments and prohibition of the atomic weapon.

Members of the delegation who spoke at the reception were John Platts Mills of Great Britain, John Rogge of the United States, Emilio Lussa of Italy, Konate Kahadu of Africa and James Endicott of Canada, as well as Yves Farge of France, the leader of the delegation.

Chairman Kusnetsov said that the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress will be submitted for the consideration of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

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## Persecution in South Korea

THE Syngman Rhee government is ruthlessly persecuting Chinese residents in South Korea, a *New China News Agency* Peking report said on March 6.

A Chinese eye-witness, who had just arrived in Peking, reported that early last autumn the Syngman Rhee government forcibly closed down Chinese warehouses and confiscated all goods imported by Chinese merchants on the pretext that they were smugglers.

In mid-December last year, Syngman Rhee himself issued a statement denouncing the Chinese people in South Korea. Shortly afterwards, the Ministry of Trade refused to grant insurance, and warehouse, import and export permits to Chinese.

By the end of last year, the Syngman Rhee government, on the pretext of carrying out "land reform," declared that land owned or tenanted by Chinese was to be confiscated and that Chinese had no rights to possess or lease land. All houses bought by Chinese from Japanese owners during

## Economic Centralization Resolution

THE resolution on the centralization of national financial and economic work passed on March 3 by the State Administration Council states that the financial situation is far better than it was a year ago and that it is now possible to take a step forward toward minimizing the deficit of the national budget and to prevent serious price fluctuations.

This requires:

1) The setting up of a national committee to determine the number of personnel, draft animals and vehicles for every military and administrative organization.

2) The setting up of a national committee to conduct a thorough inventory of the materials in warehouses of enterprises under government jurisdiction and to place all materials and goods concerned under the direct disposal of the Finance and Economics Committee of the State Administration Council for proper distribution and utilization.

3) The carrying out of economy measures in all government organizations and national or public schools, enterprises and factories to reduce unnecessary expenditure to the lowest possible point.

4) That all public grain levied by the Central People's Government be put at the disposal of the Ministry of Finance exclusively.

5) That all customs duties, salt tax, commodity, industrial and commercial taxes be solely at the disposal of the Ministry of Finance. Cities or county seats which have not done so must establish branches of the State Treasury by mid-March, to handle matters relating to the affairs of the treasury in the locality. As from March, all tax revenue must be transferred daily to the state treasuries.

6) That the Ministry of Trade shall direct the home and foreign trade of China to ensure a systematic supply of materials and goods; that the business of all state-owned trading concerns shall be strictly under the control of the Ministry of Trade; that all money collected by state-owned trading concerns be delivered daily to the state treasuries.

7) That all publicly owned factories or enterprises come under three categories of management: one, direct management of the Central People's Government; two, management of local people's government or military organs empowered by the Central People's Government; three, management of the local people's governments or military organs. That all publicly owned factories, enterprises and cooperatives pay taxes regularly.

8) That the People's Bank of China be designated as the official government bank and military, administrative and state operated organizations and enterprises shall deposit at the government bank.

9) That the foreign exchange rate be fixed and foreign exchange controlled by the People's Bank of China.

These steps, the resolution concludes, will effectively surmount financial difficulties, control military and administrative expenditure and prevent serious price fluctuations.

— *NCNA*

the Japanese occupation days were also declared forfeited.

On January 22, over 40 Chinese merchants who travelled regularly between Hongkong and Jinsen in South Korea were summoned by the South Korean government to a meeting. All of them were arrested and a number were tortured. A Chinese merchant lost one of his eyes after being tortured with an electrical appliance.

Many Chinese merchants have been compelled to wind up their businesses because of their enormous losses due to the recent looting by the Syngman Rhee government.

Kuomintang agents in South Korea have acted in collusion with the Syngman Rhee government to persecute Chinese, and some of these Kuomintang agents are said to be in the pay of the government.

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## South Korean Inflation

DR. Arthur Bunce, chief of the ECA mission to South Korea, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington, on March 9, that a joint Korean-American committee was "vigorously" dealing with the threat of inflation in South Korea.

Dr. Bunce testified in support of a request by ECA for $100,000,000 in economic assistance for South Korea in the next fiscal year. He said inflation could threaten the ECA program in South Korea, but that several important steps had already been taken.

These steps included sharp increases in railway and electricity tariffs to reduce the government subsidies.

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## North Korea Production

ALL branches of the North Korean national economy have overfulfilled their quotas for the first year of the 1949-1950 plan, Tseng Tsoon Tak, chairman of the National Planning Committee of North Korea reported, according to news from Phyongyang. This is due to the hard work of the working people and to aid, both material and technical from the Soviet Union.

Industrial production last year is said to have passed the target set by 2.8 percent, and exceeded the 1948 level by 39 percent. Wages increased by 15 percent compared with those in 1948. But in fact workers' real wages rose even more, because wage increases were accompanied by a general fall in prices, the report said.

Grain and cotton crops exceeded those of the last year under the Japanese, in 1944.

When the 1949-1950 plan is fulfilled as a whole, North Korea's production will have surpassed that under the Japanese occupation.

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## North Korean Agriculture

THE Korean People's Democratic Republic is observing the fourth anniversary of the adoption of the agrarian reform law by the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea.

All Phyongyang newspapers have published articles describing the substantial achievements of agriculture in North Korea. The People's government which effected the agrarian reform, the *Minju Choson* says, confiscated 1,050,000 *teh* of land (one *teh* is approximately 2.5 acres) which had belonged to Japanese and Korean landlords, and distributed this land free of charge among more than 720,000 peasants who had little or no land of their own.

Agrarian reform created favorable conditions for the development of agriculture in North Korea, reports say. Despite the drought in 1949, the rice harvest was 626,491 tons and the cotton crop 42,033 tons above the corresponding figures for production in 1944.

Living and cultural standards of the Korean people have risen considerably. Listing achievements, the *Minju Choson* pointed out that up to September 1, 1949, 126,305 homes were built in the villages of North Korea, and about 270,000 households received electricity.

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## Japanese Police Parade

SIXTY-FIVE hundred armed Japanese police paraded on the Imperial Plaza in front of Emperor Hirohito's palace, in Tokyo on March 7.

All carried 45 caliber pistols. Riot vans, radio cars, and motor lorries participated in the parade past the chief of police, Eichi Tanaka, and General MacArthur's chief public safety officer, Colonel H. Pulliam.

The parade celebrated the second anniversary of the reorganization of the police force.

*The Giefang Rhbao (Liberation Daily) pictures Nationalist General Pai Chung-hsi's troops fleeing across the border into Indo-China.*

## Tokyo's Gangster Police

TOKYO reports say that Japanese gangsters have been running their own private "police force" for three years.

These gangsters who collected "protection money" from Tokyo's main shopping center kept a private police force with their own criminal investigation department and 200 "sergeants" and "constables".

Tokyo police, on March 8, arrested 15 of the leaders, who called their organization the "Ginza police" from the Ginza, fashionable street in the center of Tokyo, where they demanded huge sums for "protecting" restaurants, cabarets and amusement houses.

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## Japanese Miners on Strike

THE National Federation of the Metal Mine Workers' Union started a nation-wide strike on March 7, Tokyo reports says. The strike was carried out according to schedule when the union's committee decided on March 6 that the management's attitude was unsatisfactory.

Of a total membership of 75,000, actually 66,000 participated. Not joining the strike were 9,000 members of the Mitsui 7th labor union.

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## France Against Vietnam

FRENCH High Commissioner in Vietnam, M. Leon Pignon, said in Saigon on March 11 that French forces would not withdraw from Indo-China because if they did "bloodshed" would follow. He claimed that Indo-China needed military intervention more than economic assistance.

Asked whether the United States would aid France or the Bao Dai regime in Indo-China, M. Pignon replied: "France is responsible for conducting the campaign against the Communists, and American aid for France constitutes aid for Indo-China which France is defending."

Military operations against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam cost France 106,000,000,000 francs last year. This did not quite absorb the whole of Marshall Aid to France. M. Pignon declined to reveal French casualties last year or to confirm whether Indo-China air bases are being prepared for use by Anglo-American bomber squadrons.

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## Strikes in Indonesia

A tidal wave of strikes is paralyzing economic life in several places both in Java and Sumatra, reports the Dutch *Aneta* news agency.

The Semerang dock area has been idle for two weeks following a walkout of 6,000 dock workers of various firms, including shipping companies.

Union leaders in Jakarta told the press: "We will hold out until all demands for wage raises are accepted." They said their funds permitted a one-month strike at least.

Various estates in East Java's rich Deli district have been strike bound for over a week. Laborers are staging

strikes for higher wages and greater allowances of rice.

Medan's 700 public service workers resumed work on March 6, after a two-day strike, on the condition that negotiations for higher wages will be continued.

Bandoeng textile factories are idle following a strike of 4,000 workers. Strike leaders are said to have reached some agreement with employees, but the workers have not returned to work.

A similar occurence is reported from Sourabaya, where the management of the Gagel rubber factory, backed by union leaders and members of the military information service, appealed to workers to resume their jobs.

The strikers, however, informed the employers that they would "stay out for one year if necessary" until all their demands were fulfilled.

## ECA Aid to Europe

BRITAIN will receive the largest share of next year's Marshall Plan funds, according to estimates submitted to Congress, on March 10, by the ECA.

The estimates showed how $2,925,000,000 requested by the ECA for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951 would be divided among the Marshall Plan countries.

Britain's share was estimated at $687,100,000. West Germany would receive the next largest share, getting $552,900,000. France would receive $502,800,000.

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## British Workers Dissatisfied

A new tide of dissatisfaction—pent up during the General Election period because trade unionists were anxious not to embarrass the Labor Party—is sweeping across British industry as engineers, shipbuilders and dockers discuss strike action, London reports said on March 9.

Leaders of 37 engineering and shipbuilding unions, meeting at York, voted to ballot their 2,500,000 members on a proposal to strike in support of a claim for a blanket £1 a week wage increase.

The claim, rejected by the employers, would add an estimated £100,000,000 to £120,000,000 a year on wages if granted.

Another storm center was in the Midlands, where 700 miners at Baggeridge, largest colliery in the South Staffordshire coalfield, went on strike.

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## Poland's Catholics

THE Polish government struck a further blow at Catholic financial power and privilege on March 6 when

# *Japanese List Dead Men as POWs in USSR*

*(Dispatch from a Japanese correspondent reprinted from the January, 1950 issue of "The Australian Democrat," a monthly news-review published in Melbourne.)*

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FOR some time now anti-Soviet American and Japanese officials in Tokyo have been running a carefully worked-out campaign to discredit the Soviet Union in the eyes of the Japanese people who, disillusioned by the performance of the "democrats" of the MacArthur-Yoshida regime, and inspired by the triumph of the liberation armies of China, are steadily and in ever-growing numbers turning left.

One of the tricks used by the anti-Sovieteers has been the cruel "repatriation scare" cynically organized to encourage and then discourage the anxious next-of-kin of Japanese troops formerly stationed in Manchuria and North China.

The Japanese authorities have published statistics purporting to show the number of POWs (prisoners of war) detained by the Soviet Union, and these figures have exceeded by over 370,000 those issued by the Soviet government.

This startling discrepancy has caused enough anxiety in Japan to enable Deputy Nobuo Asaoka, a professional Soviet-baiter in the "Democratic-Liberal" party, the party of Premier Yoshida, to stage the stunt of leading a 35-person delegation to the Soviet Mission in Tokyo. On being told by a Soviet official that nothing could be gained by discussing the matter now while repatriation was actually taking place, Asaoka dramatically declared that he would not move until there was a satisfactory reply to his questions, compelled his frankly unwilling followers to sit down on the sidewalk, and had press cameramen photograph the demonstration, much to the embarrassment of his parliamentary colleagues.

Independent inquiries into the whole repatriation issue have unearthed some curious facts.

Late in October a certain Tokujiro Komatsumoto, a former officer in the Imperial Army in Manchuria, discovered at the Repatriation Board headquarters in the port of Maizuru a list of the personnel of the 44th Army of Manchuria. This group, 8,000 strong, had been organized in Harbin and had perished on July 16, 1945, when a transport carrying the group was torpedoed off the coast of Korea. These dead men were now listed as POWs in Russian hands.

Komatsumoto told the Repatriation Board officials that an announcement of the deaths of the 8,000 men had been made by the Japanese authorities at the time, but officials refused to remove the list from their file.

Komatsumoto's discovery was only one of a number of incidents which indicated that the accuracy of the Japanese figures was highly questionable.

When the matter was brought up by Socialist and Communist deputies at a meeting of the Repatriation Committee of the Imperial Diet in the middle of November, a Foreign Office spokesman admitted that his office was not always fully informed of the number of repatriates reaching Japan.

When reminded that, though there had been a large number of POWs returning from Manchuria in 1949, identical figures had been given in March and October for the number of Japanese remaining in Manchuria, the spokesman declined to make a statement.

When a deputy demanded to know how there could be repatriates from Dairen where the number of remaining ex-soldiers was listed as zero, the Foreign Office spokesman stated that the "original figures for repatriation were an estimate and not necessarily precise."

The spokesman further said that the figures issued by the Japanese government were not actually Japanese figures at all, but American figures based on Japanese reports and interrogations of repatriates.

A sidelight was cast on the manner in which these interrogations were being carried out, when three recent arrivals from Siberia told the press early in November that torture was used to extract information from repatriates and to compel them to renounce their pledge of joining the communist movement on their return.

The three ex-soldiers said that on their arrival in Japan company and platoon commanders and others in the leadership of their echelon had been segregated from the rest and imprisoned in closely guarded detention rooms for questioning.

One repatriate, a certain Tasuo Sato, formerly of the 5th Platoon, 412th Company, lost consciousness when he was kicked in the stomach and groin by three policemen attached to the Source Material Squad of the Statistical Division of the Repatriation Board, when he refused to give "ideological" information concerning the leading members of his Siberian camp, especially of its labor (brick manufacture) department.

It is freely said in journalistic circles in Tokyo that the whole issue of repatriation from Siberia has been used by the Americans and the Japanese and other cronies as a cheap stunt intended to offset the influence on the Japanese people of repatriates, who are returning well-fed and happy.

Some of these repatriates have written books and magazine articles on their experiences and have paid high tribute to the manner in which POWs are being treated in Russia.

Premier Josef Cyrankiewicz obtained the National Assembly's unanimous approval of a government decree empowering the state to take over all church land exceeding 250 acres.

Smaller church estates held by parish priests are exempted from the decree which mainly affects the property of the Polish bishops.

M. Cyrankiewicz, in speaking of the measure, said that the large church estates were anachronistic and typically great landlords' property where workers were exploited in feudal conditions.

Income from the sequestered property added to state donations would go toward the creation of a church fund to aid meritorious priests, contribute toward relief work and provide social insurance for church estate workers.

Church buildings standing on nationalized land will be unaffected by the decree. The government would decide whether in such cases to permit the Church to continue the administration of nationalized land, M. Cyrankiewicz said.

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# The Week's Business

**Shanghai's Victory Bond quota almost fulfilled; market turn-over dull; city treasury established; People's Bank fixed depositors have new regulations.**

THREE more local banks closed down during the week under review. These banks, the Tung Yu Native Bank, the Yuan Heng Ta Native Bank, and the Chung Yung Bank, were unable to make up their deficits to the Shanghai Clearing House. Observers have pointed out that the recent closure of many local banks has not been due primarily to a stringent financial situation or the inability of industries to repay loans. Rather, they say, in many cases it has been a means for the flight of capital and evasion of responsibility.

In the financial market the money situation turned slightly tight on Friday, March 10, when large sums were turned in to the People's Bank for payment of Victory Bonds purchased and subscribed in Shanghai up to March 11, totalling 29,163,873 units, close to the goal of 30,000,000 units. Of these bonds, 9,140,000 units had been paid for by March 10. Industrial and commercial circles have subscribed to 26,721,211 units, by far the largest portion, while salaried employees and workers have accounted for 1,474,414 units. Those classified as "rich city dwellers" have subscribed to 237,470 units so far.

Meanwhile, according to a Peking report, more than 64 percent of the Victory Bonds issue for the first period of the current year have been sold. Incomplete statistics showed that by the end of February a total of 63,000,000 units had been sold in the North China, East China, Central and South China and the Northwest districts. People in Hongkong and Macao purchased some 550,000 units.

In the local commodity market during the week under review, from March 9 to 15, turnover for the essential commodities, including rice, wheat flour, edible oil, sugar, cotton yarn and cloth, registered sharp declines. In the rice market the volume of tradings was practically cut in half. The dull market was attributed to the seasonal lull. Both outport and local demand declined.

This market slump, coupled with the considerable quantities of supplies dumped on the market by the state organs, contributed to the stabilized trend of commodity prices. During the first three days of the week ending March 11 the local state trading corporations sold in the market supplies valued at some JMP40,000,000,000, including daily necessities, rice, coal, edible oil, and salt. Simultaneously, in order to maintain the quotations, these organs also collected some JMP20,000,000,000 worth of supplies from the market.

The resolution to centralize the financial and economic work of the state, made by the Government Administration Council on March 3, was interpreted in the local market as an important financial and economic step toward overcoming the financial difficulties in 1950. The salient points of the resolution center on economy for government organs, proper distribution and utilization of materials, intensification of taxation and control of currency issue.

On March 7, in accordance with this resolution, the Shanghai City Treasury was officially inaugurated.

The Shanghai Branch of the People's Bank of China recently announced measures which permit depositors with fixed deposits to withdraw their money at any time, just as in the case of current accounts. These measures are expected to bring increased sums of capital to the People's Bank. The resulting recall of currency and reduced issuance should help to stabilize the financial and commodity markets. Also, it should enable capital to be centralized at the People's Bank and to be diverted to productive channels.

## Quotations

Following is a listing of representative commodity prices for the past week:

| | Mar. 8 JMP | Mar. 15 JMP |
|---|---|---|
| Parity Unit ... | 6,432 | 6,255 |
| US dollar (note) | 31,500 | 34,200 |
| 20's yarn ..... | 6,600,000 | 6,900,000 |
| 12-lb. cloth .... | 300,000 | 286,000 |
| Rice, 1st grade. | 285,000 | 280,000 |
| Peanut oil ..... | 605,000 | 590,000 |
| Coal briquette.. | 32,500 | 28,600 |

## White is Pink is Red

IN Washington, a Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee is investigating charges made by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy that the American State Department is just another "communist front" organization, a "haven for communists and their sympathizers."

It turns out that Dr. Philip Jessup, the State Department's roving ambassador, has an "unusual affinity" for "communist causes."

Senator McCarthy made this accusation to the Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee, saying that Jessup had been a sponsor of the American-Russian Institute.

Paris reports, on March 13, say that Jessup has cancelled his ship passage and is flying back to the United States immediately, in order to answer charges. Dr. Jessup said of the affair: "If the committee wishes to spend a little time studying allegations that I am favorable to communism, I will be happy to appear before it."

Senator McCarthy also accused, on March 13, a key State Department official, Mr. Haldore Hanson, of "pro-communist activities back to September 1938."

Mr. Hanson, he said, would head a technical cooperation project connected with President Truman's Point Four program for "under-developed areas." This project would spend "hundreds of millions of dollars of our taxpayers' money."

Senator McCarthy said Hanson, among other things, was running a "communist" magazine in Peking before the Sino-Japanese war broke out.

State Department spokesman Michael McDermott said the Department was satisfied that Mr. Hanson was not a security risk and was loyal to America. "His case has been thoroughly processed and he has been cleared," he added.

Washington is all aflutter at Senator McCarthy's accusations. Not only is the "Americanism" of State Department officials in question, but it turns out that their wives also are up to their necks in alien, revolutionary activities.

Mrs. Dean Acheson, wife of the United States Secretary of State, was accused, on March 8, of being associated with a "communist front" organization.

Senator McCarthy declared to the Senate Foreign Relations committee that Mrs. Acheson had been investigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee and that she was listed on their records as a sponsor of the Washington branch of the Congress of American Women—a "communist front" organization.

*Articles of Interest:*

# Soviet Technicians in China

"SOVIET technicians," reports the writer, "first came to Anshan (Northeast China) Iron and Steel Works in the autumn of 1949. When they were sent to the various plants," he goes on, "the first matter which received their attention were facilities for the prevention of cold. Some cadres did not appreciate the seriousness of the issue, and the question was heard: 'Why do they not bring up more important matters?' But, with the approach of the cold weather, the workers on the night shift found it impossible to work, and the air pressure equipment and other machinery and tools also suffered breakage from the cold. The seriousness of the issue was then recognized." Wang Ping reports that the Soviet technicians explained that they had gone through similar experiences in the early stages of their reconstruction efforts in the Soviet Union.

## Minor Issues Considered

"Such seemingly 'minor issues'," states the writer, "are often given the closest attention by Soviet technicians." And he relates how in one instance the working of a furnace was held up until a few bricks found not up to standard measurements were replaced, how in another instance screws not properly driven in were detected and the work held up till the matter had been put right; how the minutest care is given to the inspection of tools and equipment; and how, wherever it is found that workers' time is not being fully and efficiently used for production, recommendations for improved organization are made to the management by the Soviet experts. They "took pains to explain," he reports, "that small issues are easily overlooked, and may lead to serious trouble later. Of course," continues the writer, "the Soviet technicians give greater attention to the larger issues and problems too, and have contributed to numerous significant achievements in production problems in the Anshan Iron and Steel Works."

"In one case," he relates, "plans were made for the complete restoration of a large furnace by August, 1950. But after inspecting the conditions, the Soviet technicians, in September, 1949, recommended to the authorities that the work be started immediately, and assured them that it would be completed within the year." Old engineers employed in the Works were very skeptical, he says, but the Soviet technicians pointed out that similar tasks has been successfully undertaken in Siberia, where the weather is much colder. "The confidence of the workers was won," writes Wang Ping, "and the gigantic task was completed five days before the end of 1949!"

In other cases, he writes, the guidance of the Soviet technicians led to a reduction of working time for difficult tasks by "as high as 28 percent," and "Production capacity has also been increased as the result of improvements in technique introduced by these experts . . .

"With confidence in them rapidly established," the article states, "the Soviet technicians are now immediately sought after as soon as difficult problems arise. Invariably they lose no time in coming to the aid of the workers . . . In all plants where Soviet technicians are assigned for duty, all kinds of improvements have been introduced. Machinery parts which formerly would have been considered unserviceable are being salvaged and used." . . . "The Soviet technicians have further impressed on the management members of the plants the need for planned working schedules and constant inspection of progress made . . .

"The work attitude of the Soviet technicians has won universal esteem. They never fail to give credit where credit is due, and at the same time they never hesitate to criticize a defect or a mistake. . . . They uphold," remarks the writer, "the true Bolshevik spirit of showing greater concern for the work of other people than for their own welfare." He continues: "Views of the workers are always listened to with an open mind, and in many cases valuable suggestions have been adopted. When a worker brings up a new theory, they will immediately study it together, and see whether or not it is feasible.

## Concern for Workers

"The livelihood of the workers is also of concern to these experts. They often visit the homes of the workers together with the administrative authorities and the management of the Works.

"Today," concludes the writer, "all the workers of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works are demanding greater opportunities to study with these Soviet experts. In some plants, more Soviet technicians are being asked for by the workers. Even the old technical personnel have developed a sincere respect for their new Soviet colleagues. Many are studying Russian and technical publications from the Soviet Union . . .

"For the year 1950," he adds "the Anshan Iron and Steel Works has been assigned a production quota *six times that of 1949*. But everyone in the Works is confident that with the experience gained last year, and with the help given by the Soviet technicians they will be able to attain this goal."

## LETTERS

*(Continued from Page 33)*

longer "useless;" on the contrary, in rebuilding a new country, they are just as useful as engineers.

Of course, the art students of today are quite different from the art students of yesterday. They no longer study art for art's sake. They study art for the people's sake. They have undergone a great transformation since the liberation of the mainland of China. I myself am a member of the National College of Fine Arts in Hangchow. I have witnessed the institution of a new system of art education. The art students in China paint not only in class-rooms and studios, but they also go to the factories and farms. They will become the people's artists of tomorrow. They have to understand the people, especially the working class.

Matisse, Roualt, and other famous artists of the Paris school are no longer imitated in our college, nor do the students paint willows, peach blossoms and orchards. These paintings belong to the past age—the age of capitalism. Our new era needs a kind of art which is healthy and realistic. Now, our students study technique directly from the Renaissance masters such as Da Vinci, Botticelli, etc. And they draw directly upon "life" itself for the subjects for their paintings. Last term the third year and fourth year students spent a month at a factory in Hangchow, living and working with the workers in order to understand the latter's feelings.

Every student made sketches of what he saw in the factory. After collecting enough material, he arranged his sketches and began to work on the composition of a large painting. Then other students came to him. They held a meeting, discussing the merits and defects of his painting. Some of them suggested better ideas which would improve his work. "Do the persons in the picture really look like workers? Or merely like upper-class people dressed in working clothes?" was the question raised and discussed again and again. When everyone considered the picture was satisfactory, it was passed.

*sketching*

*discussing*

During their 30 days in the factory the student formed close relations with the workers. Their friendship was so deep that when they were about to leave, some of the women workers cried.

In the capitalistic world many painters of genius have to die because of poverty, and "art" itself is a mere decoration for the rich. "Art" is always considered as a thing of little importance. Most people if they are concerned for the future of their youngsters, dare not send their children to art schools. But in our country, art education is now carefully planned and respected. Everyone has a chance to develop his talent. Our young painters are welcomed everywhere. They live with the people. They work and paint for the people. The people no longer despise them, because they are "useful" and "powerful" in building a new country.

HSIA LI
(Photographs by Wars)

Hangchow
March 10, 1950

# The Review's English Lesson CXXII

## Colloquial Phrases

THIS week, our text is a story of racial prejudice in Washington, D.C., capital of the United States. We have selected certain passages from the story, which appeared in the December 20, 1948, issue of the *New Republic*.

**It was a cold winter morning in 1945, when a young matron, about to have a baby, applied for admission to a hospital in Washington, D. C. Though there were plenty of vacant beds inside, the (church-supported) hospital refused her admission, and she had her baby on the sidewalk before its door.**

**A young matron:** "matron" comes from the Latin *matrona*, a married woman, and means simply that, or, as in the above case, one who is, or is about to be, a mother. The word is often used to mean "mother, and less frequently, a middleaged woman of the upper class, as in the phrase, "a society matron."

**To have a baby:** the more common expression for "to give birth," or "to bear a child."

**Though:** although, even though (雖然).

**Church-supported:** the hospital was aided, or maintained financially by church funds.

**Refused her admission:** refused to admit her into the hospital

**She had her baby:** she gave birth to her child.

**Before its door:** the possessive pronoun "its" refers to "hospital": the door of the hospital. The first part of the sentence, to the conjunction "and," contrasts the facts that there was space in the hospital, but that the hospital refused to admit the woman. The second part means "and therefore she was forced to bear her child on the sidewalk."

**The medical authorities very kindly furnished a sheet to cover the mother and the newborn infant as they lay on the cement, until arrangements could be made to take them away. The mother was a Negro; and the baby who had the temerity to be born into a white man's world was, God help him, a Negro too.**

**The medical authorities:** the medical people (doctors, supervisors, nurses) in charge. From the context, the authorities referred to were those in charge of the hospital.

**Very kindly furnished a sheet:** the phrase "very kindly" is used here for irony; the writer obviously thinks that the action of the hospital in refusing to admit the woman was most unjust and wrong, and the trivial courtesy of giving her a sheet (bedsheet 被單) could not hide or alleviate the injustice. He means that merely giving a sheet was not kind at all.

**To cover:** "to" is often used in this way to mean "for the purpose of," as in "He came to give me the book, or in order to give me the book."

**They lay:** the verb "to lie" often gives trouble. If it means "to lie down," as a person or animal, it is intransitive and the past tense is "lay," past participle "lain." If it means "to put something down," or "the hen lays an egg," it is transitive and the past tense and past participle form is "laid."

**On the cement:** here, cement(水泥), the material from which the sidewalk is made, is used to mean the sidewalk itself. Cement being very hard material, its use here emphasizes the unpleasant position of mother and child.

**The mother was a Negro:** a Negro is a person whose skin is dark brown or black in color. Although, as here, Negro can refer to either a man or woman, the feminine form is often used, "Negress."

**The baby who had the temerity:** "temerity" means foolhardiness, rashness, blind courage. Its use here is ironic since a new-born baby could scarcely be expected to possess such qualities.

**Born into a white man's world:** the world is organized and run by and for the "white" man, the man whose skin is white, for his own benefit. While the US Constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens, discrimination is in fact practised against certain "racial" groups composed of citizens whose skin is not "white." In this case, the mother was barred from the hospital because her skin was dark.

**God help him:** this phrase has the sense of "nobody will assist or aid him, so the only thing he can depend upon is God." It is usually applied, as here, to a person in extremely difficult or hopeless circumstances — someone for whom there is no hope.

This sentence, beginning "The mother was a Negro...", carries the whole point of the story, and is placed at the end to be more effective. The reader is made to wonder why the mother was excluded from the hospital; the writer shocks him into a realization that it was because she was a Negro. Naturally, a newly-born baby could not have "the temerity to be born"; this is the writer's feeling about the event. He is saying that a Negro, born into a white man's world, has to face a difficult and at times tragic situation. The writer feels the position of a Negro in the United States today is insecure and painful, and to show this, he says that for any Negro infant to come into the world is rash indeed.

上海中正東路一六〇號密勒氏評論報發行
上海香港路一一七號美豐登有限公司承印